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General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/66/150.
** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2011]

1. Cuba reiterates the criteria expressed in its prior responses to the Secretary-General in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The complex international situation and the need for a peaceful response to the pressing problems besetting humanity confirm the importance of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation as the most viable option for addressing new threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the relevance of the General Assembly resolution to which this reply relates.

3. The stalemate stemming from the lack of political will on the part of certain actors that has persisted for the past few years in the negotiations on the multilateral disarmament machinery increases the value of multilateralism. In the past, the concerted multilateral efforts of the international community have enabled the adoption and implementation of such important international instruments as the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention, in whose letter and spirit the respective States Parties have made a commitment to the total elimination of two categories of weapons of mass destruction.

4. There have been encouraging signs in the Conference on Disarmament, which in 2009 adopted a programme of work after more than 10 years of failure to reach agreement.

5. The unilateral actions in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control undertaken by some States Members of the United Nations to solve their security problems constitute a grave danger for international peace and security, and erode confidence in the international system, the foundations of the United Nations itself, and the credibility of multilateral agreements on disarmament.

6. Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction cannot be achieved through unilateral measures, the development of strategic alliances to promote agreements negotiated outside internationally recognized multilateral frameworks, or by the use or threat of use of force. Multilateralism and peaceful solutions negotiated through the organs established for such purposes and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations continue to be the only suitable way to settle disputes.

7. Once again it is necessary to reaffirm the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as of the determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations on this issue.

8. Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process under the auspices of the United Nations, with strict adherence to its Charter and to international law, with the aim of creating a multipolar, just and equitable world

order and world democratic governance, and not one based on the monopoly of a handful of wealthy nations.

9. The threat of extermination hanging over humankind because of nuclear weapons must be definitively eliminated, by entirely eradicating such weapons. Cuba supports the negotiation of a legally binding international treaty, similar to the conventions prohibiting chemical and biological weapons, in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

10. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, whose members have always been at the forefront of actions and initiatives to achieve nuclear disarmament, reaffirmed its commitment to this issue by adopting a declaration on the subject at the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011. The declaration expresses a strong commitment to work towards holding a high-level international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons in the shortest time frame possible.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[26 June 2011]

1. As a result of its concern for disarmament, non-proliferation and weapons control and regulation, Nicaragua has participated actively in international conferences held within the framework of the United Nations and other international forums, supporting the multilateral negotiations devoted to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms regulation. In that way, Nicaragua has pressed for the adoption, evaluation and examination of resolutions and declarations on these subjects, so that decisive progress can be made towards limiting the arms race and finding a path to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under an effective monitoring system.

2. Nicaragua takes the view that disarmament can be achieved in a climate of trust founded on mutual respect and conducive to the establishment of better relations based on justice, solidarity and cooperation, and also that multilateral, regional and subregional arms control and disarmament agreements are the only way to peacefully resolve disputes and conflicts.

3. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity, led by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, is convinced that multilateralism is the only way to maintain international peace and security and that a common effort by all States to agree collectively on instruments and mechanisms will lead us to guarantee mutual security. It is aware that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures contribute essentially to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly and respectful relations among peoples and nations.

4. Nicaragua considers that general and complete disarmament is a crucial tool that should be used to reduce political asymmetry and bolster the international order on the basis of the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. In addition, it is in the common interest of all peoples not to live with the threat of weapons of mass

destruction. The strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of disarmament complement and reinforce each other.

5. Nicaragua shares the international community's commitment to eliminate chemical and biological weapons, and supports the early conclusion of a verification protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

6. Nicaragua reaffirms its commitment to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, because it considers that the excessive accumulation of conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons, leads to tensions and conflicts, as well as the high crime rates in the region.

7. Nicaragua supports the initiative of the Rio Group in the framework of the Organization of American States to make the hemisphere a zone free of anti-personnel mines. We believe that this objective is possible with support and cooperation from the international community to accomplish demining and above all assistance for the victims, because these are fundamental and complementary aspects of alleviating suffering and clearing the way for development.

8. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity believes that the best way of addressing the challenges of the twenty-first century is through effective multilateralism, based on respect for and recognition of nations and Governments, in order to establish new partnerships and develop common strategies and policies.

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General and complete disarmament

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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** This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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Armenia

[Original: English]
[12 July 2011]

The adoption of General Assembly resolution 65/47 provides an important opportunity to examine the challenges related to confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, to identify the sources of dormant tensions and seek solutions.

Armenia has always been a staunch advocate for regional cooperation in every possible sphere. The reasoning is simple and well justified: even if there are problems between the countries in particular regions, any cooperation, be it small- or large-scale, short- or long-term, is an indisputable contributor to confidence-building.

Guided by that principled approach, Armenia makes every effort to advance confidence-building in the South Caucasus utilizing the frameworks of the United Nations, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Partnership for Peace/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as well as bilateral relations. Armenia has always demonstrated its readiness and will to initiate projects aimed at the development of regional cooperation in various fields.

Unfortunately, the prevailing situation in the region and the ill-perceived political motivations of Turkey and Azerbaijan do not allow practical confidence-building steps to be taken in the field of disarmament. Even worse, there is an extremely dangerous arms race looming at the subregional level.

According to official information on the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as of 1 January 2011, Azerbaijan had significantly exceeded its established ceilings in two categories of treaty-limited equipment. The Azerbaijani holdings in battle tanks are 381 (permitted ceiling is 220) and in artillery are 469 (permitted ceiling is 285). In 2010, there was a sizeable increase of holdings in artillery (44) as well as in the categories of attack helicopters (11) and combat aircraft (4).

The many-fold increase of Azerbaijan's military budget over past years (since 2000, by 470 per cent; defence spending in 2011 amounts to $3.3 billion) and the persistent aggressive and harsh rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership also heighten the tension in the region of the South Caucasus and seriously undermine the negotiation process aimed at the peaceful settlement of existing problems, particularly the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Confidence- and security-building measures are of particular significance in conflict resolution. Regrettably, Azerbaijan refuses to remove from the line of contact snipers that claim several dozens of lives every year. The Azeri side ignores the persistent calls of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson in Office and Co-Chairs of the OSCE to that effect.

The full and unconditional implementation of the legally binding Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is not only the main instrument for conventional arms control but also one of the cornerstones of confidence-building measures in the region, and the negligent position of Azerbaijan in that regard has a

very negative impact on the efforts of Armenia to promote an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in the region.

To ease the existing tensions in the region, reverse the worrisome trends and fill in the security vacuum, Armenia and Georgia have recently taken responsible steps to advance bilateral cooperation, including in the field of defence. Hopefully, that positive development will influence the other stakeholders in the region to get on the same road.

Germany

[Original: English]
[15 July 2011]

Introduction

The Federal Republic of Germany, referring to its 2010 contribution, dated 14 April 2011, to the database on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms (as mentioned in resolution 63/57), attaches great significance to confidence-building measures in disarmament and arms control and emphasizes the importance of such measures at the regional and subregional levels.

German participation in treaties and agreements with regard to confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels and related activities

(a) Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe;

(b) Treaty on Open Skies;

(c) Vienna Document;

(d) OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;

(e) General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, annex 1-B;

(f) OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

(g) OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;

(h) OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers.

Other activities of Germany (conferences and seminars) with regard to confidence-building measures in 2010 (list is not exhaustive)

Germany also pays particular attention to regional and subregional dialogue with regard to issues relating to confidence-building measures, landmines and small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Activities in 2010 included:

- Continued support to training courses at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization School in the field of small arms and light weapons
- Continued support to training courses and seminars held at the regional arms control verification and implementation assistance centre in Zagreb

- A fact-finding tour for member States of the Union of South American Nations on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, stopping in Berlin, Vienna and Frankfurt (Oder), from 21 to 27 February 2010
- A brainstorming seminar of the group of governmental experts to review the operation and further development of the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures, held in Berlin, on 13 and 14 September 2010
- A visit by member States of the League of Arab States to Berlin from 26 to 29 September 2010, on issues related to small arms and light weapons

Guyana

[Original: English]
[20 July 2011]

In keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, Guyana holds steadfastly to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and is not involved in armed conflict. Moreover, Guyana maintains good relations with all its neighbours.

Guyana is engaged with member States of the international community with regard to regional and international efforts to address the security threats that member States face, in particular those relating to drug trafficking, illegal weapons and international terrorism, as well as the impact that such threats can have on the economic and social development of member States.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has adopted security as its 4th pillar and has identified security assistance and cooperation, intelligence-sharing and regional investigations and enforcement among its main areas of focus. Additionally, CARICOM has initiated a regional crime and security strategy with the objective of creating a safe and secure environment for all CARICOM citizens. In 2005, participants in the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government approved a management framework for crime and security.

At the hemispheric level, the Organization of American States (OAS) has established several measures to promote confidence and security-building among its member States, including the annual submission to OAS of a comprehensive inventory of confidence- and security-building measures that each member State is conducting in the hemisphere.

As a member of the Union of South American Nations, Guyana is part of an initiative aimed at strengthening South America as a zone of peace through the establishment of a mutual confidence mechanism on defence and security matters. The South American Defence Council is currently working on the procedural aspects relating to the establishment of a permanent mechanism on confidence- and security-building measures.

As a member of those regional and hemispheric gr upings and within the wider international community, Guyana continues to participate actively in and contribute to mechanisms aimed at boosting confidence-building and creating partnerships between member States in order to address security challenges.